



## *The President's Daily Brief*

1 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

East Germany's rejection of Bonn's negotiation offers has frustrated Chancellor Brandt's inner-German policies. (*Page 1*)

Enemy units stationed near Saigon and in the Mekong Delta are preparing for another round of intensive military activity. (*Page 2*)

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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

East Germany has rejected Bonn's offer to negotiate Berlin matters

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Pankow has also broken off the recently resumed discussions on bilateral transportation and postal issues as reported in The President's Daily Brief of 26 November.

East Germany insists that it can discuss Berlin matters only with West Berlin city officials. Pankow also repeated its position that broader talks with Bonn cannot take place until West Germany signs a formal treaty recognizing East Germany's sovereignty.

*East German motives are not entirely clear. They may be afraid of undercutting their own argument that other Eastern European states should delay entering bilateral negotiations with West Germany. The subject of how to deal with Bonn's Eastern policy reportedly will be discussed at the Warsaw Pact summit early this week.*

*Meanwhile, East Germany's rigid posture poses a difficult dilemma for the new Brandt government which has made progress in inner-German relations a major objective. This problem has produced a clash between Egon Bahr, a key advisor to Chancellor Brandt, and conservative officials in the foreign ministry. Bahr is also against the current Allied attempts to sound out the Soviets on Berlin because he thinks they will conflict with Bonn's negotiations with the East.*

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SOUTH VIETNAM

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The Communists seem to be preparing for another round of greater military activity. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] statements by prisoners and recent ralliers suggest that the next "high point" may come as early as this week. [REDACTED]

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A prisoner recently captured north of Saigon claims his unit is set to participate in a country-wide offensive that will begin shortly. [REDACTED]

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*Prisoners claim that the Communists will emphasize guerrilla and commando tactics in the coming offensive. Their hope of course would be to inflict heavy losses on the allies at relatively little cost to themselves.*

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NOTES

USSR:

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